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THE OLD FOOTPATH.

It wanders through the meadow:
It skirts the pasture ridge,
Then winds down to the river
And slips into the bridge.
I know its every turning:
I love it all the way,
The buttercups that fringe it,
The crows of new mown hay.
Oh, what are all the pleasures
The brick paved city yields
To one dew jeweled morning
Across the country fields
—James Buchanan in Detroit Free Press.

A HEROINE.

In the year 1778, a small palisade fort was erected upon the site now occupied by the city of Wheeling. The fort was surrounded by the cabins of the settlers and was named in honor of the great Virginia orator and patriot, Patrick Henry.

On the morning of the 1st of September, 1777, a scout appeared at the fort, announcing the near approach of the dreaded Simon Girty with a large band of savages. Having the night before received an intimation of danger from an Indian raid, the families of the settlers had removed to the fort.

The fort at this time was but lightly garrisoned, a portion of its forces having been sent to re-enforce posts that were more exposed, they being in no apprehension of danger from British or Indian forces. It was in charge of Colonel Sheppard.

The dwelling of Colonel Sheppard Zane stood about 60 yards distant from the palisade. In this building were stored supplies of various kinds, which it was very desirable to preserve, and the house occupying a favorable position to aid in resisting the attack, it was decided to make the defense from both points. In the dwelling, when the attack was made, there were but eight persons, four men and four women, including the negro cook and his wife.

The first attack was made upon a reconnaissance party under the command of Captain Mason. The Indians were ambushed a short distance from the fort and fell upon the little band without a moment's warning. More than one-half of them perished. Captain Ogilvie, with 12 men, hurried out to the assistance of Mason, and only four of his men were returned. The others were ruthlessly butchered by bullet and tomahawk. The garrison was now reduced to a mere handful of determined defenders, mostly young men. They numbered about 12, with the brave Colonel Sheppard and Ebenezer and Silas Zane at their head.

The women and children were huddled together inside the pickets, overwhelmed with grief and fear, for all hope for the safety of the fort now seemed lost. At this critical moment Simon Girty appeared with a white flag and demanded the unconditional surrender of the fort. Although the besiegers outnumbered the besieged thirtyfold, the Indians numbering over 300, the beleaguered garrison resolved to resist, for they well knew what their fate would be if they fell into the hands of the treacherous fiend, Girty. Colonel Sheppard promptly told the scoundrel that the fort would never be surrendered to him nor to any other man while there was a person left to defend it.

Girty became enraged and ordered an attack. "Girty," said the historian Lessing, "was the offspring of crime. His father was a settler in Pennsylvania, an outlaw and a sot, and his mother was a disgrace to her sex." Simon, with his two brothers, when youths, were captured by the Indians. His brother James was adopted by the Delaware and became the fiercest savage of the tribe. Simon was adopted by the Senecas, became a great hunter and finally a powerful leader among the Indians, exercising his innate wickedness to the fullest extent and declaring eternal enmity toward his own race. For many years the name of Simon Girty was a terror to the settlers of the northwest. He was as bloodthirsty and unrelenting as a tiger, excelling the savages in the cruelty he inflicted upon those who fell into his clutches. Male and female, old age and helpless infancy, suffered alike.

The besiegers for several hours kept up an ineffectual fire against the fort and dwelling from the cabins in which they were sheltered. Whenever a falling rifle of the sharpshooters was sure to bring him down. Several times the Indians advanced upon the gate of the palisade, hoping to be able to force it, but each time were compelled to retreat under a galling fire. The few men in the fort were enabled to keep up a constant firing, for the women molded the bullets and loaded the guns as fast as they could be used. Night coming on, the firing ceased. Quietness now reigned, and the darkness became intense. About midnight the attention of a negro cook, Sam, was attracted by a small stream of light that found its way through a crevice in the kitchen wall from the outside. An investigation revealed an Indian with a lighted brand endeavoring to set fire to the kitchen. Sam, watching his chance, sent a bullet through his red hide.

Early the following morning the Indians renewed the attack with much vigor. Having procured a hollow maple log, they converted it into a cannon, binding it around solidly with chains obtained from the houses of the settlers. After placing a heavy charge of powder in it and filling it to the muzzle with cannon balls, captured the day before from a flatboat that was passing down the river from Pittsburgh, in great triumph they conveyed it to within 60 or 70 yards of the fort and pointed it at the gate. Then, with shouts of exultation, which meant, "We've got you now," they touched it off. To their utter amazement and consternation, the log burst into a thousand fragments, flying in every direction, killing and wounding several of their own number. During all this time the women in the fort and dwelling were picking them off at a rapid rate, and when the smoke from the explosion had cleared away the ground was found strewn with dead savages.

The disaster and the disappointment arising from it so exasperated the Indians that they madly threw themselves against the gate with heavy battering rams made of logs, determined to force an entrance. Above the din and confusion the voice of Girty was heard urging the savages on, but he was nowhere to be seen, being shielded from the deadly rifles of the patriots in the fort, who he well knew, would rejoice to get a shot at him. The constant fire poured upon the savages from the fort and dwelling forced them to again retire.

At this juncture it was discovered that the supply of powder in the fort was about exhausted. Ebenezer Zane remembered that he had a keg stored away in his house, but how was it to be obtained? Whoever ventured to procure it was almost certain to be cut down by the bullets of the Indians, who were so near and always on the alert. Only one man could be spared for the service from the defense of the fort. Colonel Sheppard, not being willing to order any one to the duty, asked for a volunteer. Every man present eagerly offered to undertake the hazardous duty, and while they were contending for the honor it was feared that before the question was settled and the powder obtained the savages would renew the attack. At this moment Elizabeth Zane—or Patty, as she was usually called—a young girl just returned home from school in Philadelphia, but little accustomed to the horrors of border warfare, came forward and asked to be permitted to go for the powder, alleging as a reason for her going that not a man could be spared from the defense of the fort. "Whoever undertakes the duty will be in great danger of being killed or seriously wounded, and if I fall I will not be missed in the defense of the fort. I have no fears for the result. God will protect me."

So earnest was the appeal of the young heroine that consent was reluctantly given. There was no time to lose. Kneeling for a moment in prayer, she arose with a smile upon her beautiful face, saying, "I am ready." The gate was thrown open. She sallied forth and soon cleared the space between the fort and her brother's house, which she reached in safety. Not one shot was fired at her. Such action on the part of the savages could not be accounted for unless the movement was so sudden and rapid that they had not time to realize the situation, and then it was only a "sneak." A tablecloth, containing the contents of the keg of powder, was hurriedly fastened about her waist, and she started upon her return trip, running with the fleetness of a fawn toward the fort, her long glossy curls floating back from her bare head, upon which the mild rays of the early autumn sun fell so cheerfully. The wary savages, who were watching her movements, now sent a volley of bullets after her, but not one of them touched her. The noble girl entered the fort in safety with her valuable prize. A prolonged shout of welcome greeted her, and every man, inspired by her heroism, resolved to repulse the foe or die in the attempt.

During the following night Colonel Sheppard and 14 men arrived and fought their way into the fort without losing a man. And at daylight Major McCulloch arrived with 40 mounted men. His followers entered the inclosure in safety, but he, becoming separated from them, was obliged to flee to the open country and narrowly escaped falling into the hands of the savages, who thirsted for his blood, for he was one of their most determined enemies. Girty entertained a bitter hatred for him and yearned to subject him to the keenest of his tortures. After this increase to the forces of the garrison Girty and his followers abandoned all hope of capturing the fort, and after setting fire to the houses outside the pickets and killing the stock belonging to the settlers they raised the siege and withdrew to the wilderness.

Britain Slowly Washing Away.

The British board of hydrographers have made a report which is startling in some of its details. It appears that after a long series of observations it has been ascertained that the little Thames is carrying 14,000,000 cubic feet of British soil into the sea annually. In order to get an idea of what the above figures really mean, let us imagine a huge mass of stone 100 feet in width, 100 feet long and 100 feet high. Then let us imagine that 14 of these immense cubes are yearly floated out to sea from the British mainland. The Thames basin has, however, an area of 6,160 square miles. The immense amount of solid matter alluded to above is taken grain by grain from this large extent of surface, so that it only wears away the surface of the basin as a whole at the rate of one-eighth of an inch each year. At the rate of wear and tear mentioned in the opening paragraph of this article one would naturally suppose that within a few hundred years the whole of the main British island would be deposited at the bottom of the ocean, but owing to the vast area from which that 14,000,000 cubic feet of solid matter is gathered the basin of the Thames has only been lowered one single inch since the Norman conquest. Some of the readers of this will no doubt be disappointed to find that the rate of erosion is so slow and will declare that the head line conveys a different impression. The island is, however, "slowly washing away," for the statistician of the hydrographic board says that it will take 3,500,000 years to reduce Britain to the level of the sea.—St. Louis Republic.

Red Tape.

It is well to be cautious, but there are times when even caution may be carried to excess. The widow of a German officer went to the pension office for the purpose of drawing the pension due her.

She presented the usual certificate of the mayor of the village in which she lived, to the effect that she was still alive.

"This certificate is not right," said the official in charge severely.

"What is the matter with it?" inquired the poor widow.

"It bears the date of Dec. 21," was the stern reply, "and your pension was due on Dec. 15."

"What kind of a certificate do you wish?" inquired the disappointed applicant.

"We must have a certificate stating that you were alive on the 15th of December," said the official, with great firmness. "Of what possible use is this one that says you were alive on the 21st of December—six days later?"—Youth's Companion.

The grinning imps were packing stuns into the oven with a thing like a hay press. And the sinners groaned, all but one good natured looking man. "Do you know," said the good natured man at last, "this is rather nice. Reminds me of when I lived in dear old Brooklyn and crossed the bridge at rush hours."—New York Recorder.

BEWARE OF PNEUMONIA.

Health Commissioner of New York Tells How to Ward It Off.

Although more or less prevalent throughout the year, pneumonia is peculiarly dangerous during the opening months of winter. With the first frost, a very marked increase takes place in the number of cases, and during this cold, damp weather extra precautions should be taken. Pneumonia is probably produced by an earth microbe, and when frost prevails the soil beneath the house is the only ground which is not frozen. The germ gradually works toward the warm, moist earth, and the house really acts as a sort of flue, which forms a ready mode of egress for them. The proper ventilation of rooms is therefore an important factor in guarding against pneumonia, one, however, which is often overlooked.

Lack of personal hygiene is the chief predisposing cause of the disease. Irregular hours, insufficient nourishment, dyspepsia, excessive fatigue or some other factor which lowers the general tone of the system all weaken the power of resisting the pneumonia germ. When the system is run down, a sudden exposure to cold may prove fatal, while in a normal condition of body it would be thrown off.

There are three periods during which the susceptibility to pneumonia is greatest. They are early childhood—that is, up to 7 years of age, between the ages of 20 and 40 and after 60. The power of resistance against pneumonia grows much feebler after 60 years of age, and nine-tenths of the cases prove fatal.

Cold, damp weather is favorable to the contraction of "colds" and the subsequent development of pneumonia, and it still exists to some extent in a modified form. This is the disease with which pneumonia most readily combines, but it is found in combination with diphtheria, typhoid fever, measles, scarlet fever and many others.

When a severe or sudden chill has been contracted, the main thing is to act quickly, and many a serious illness can be averted, and valuable life saved by a little intelligence coupled with promptitude. If possible, send for a doctor immediately and take ten grains of quinine and five drops of spirits of camphor in a little water or on a lump of sugar. These doses are for an adult. Then soak the feet in hot water and jump into bed. Simple as these remedies are, they have nipped in the bud many prospective cases of pneumonia.

While soaking the feet the body should be warmly wrapped in a blanket, which should be kept on until some time after the person has entered the bed in order that free perspiration be continued and not checked.

A good thing to prevent "colds" is to wear wool next the skin. When this is not possible on account of the irritation sometimes caused, a mixture of wool and silk will generally be found satisfactory. I would not recommend cotton in any form for underwear, as it is frequently the cause of a dangerous cold by becoming wet and keeping the temperature of the skin below the normal. Care should be taken that the feet do not get wet, or if so that prompt measures are taken to dry them and a change of hose made.

The care taken of the outside of the body must be supplemented by the same care of the inside. A moderate diet, wholesome food, plenty of rest, regular hours, will keep the whole system in good order and enable it to throw off the germs of disease, which can only obtain a footing when debilitation affords an entrance for the disease and a fruitful soil for its development.—Cyrus Edson in St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION.

Medals to Be Awarded at the Tenth Exhibition of the League.

The tenth annual exhibition of the Architectural League will open in the galleries of the Fine Arts society building in West Fifty-seventh street, New York city, on Feb. 15 next, and all works submitted must be delivered not later than Feb. 5. The annual dinner of the Architectural League will be held in the galleries on the evening of Feb. 13. The exhibition will consist, as usual, of architectural drawings, drawings of decorative works, carvings for stained glass, models, carvings in stone, wood and bronze, examples of designs in mosaic, glass, fabrics and furniture and sketches and paintings of architectural and decorative subjects. The jury and hanging committee will consist of the officers of the league, together with the members of the subcommittees on architecture and decoration and the chairman of the catalogue committee.

The subject for the eighth annual competition for the gold and silver medals given by the league is "The Main Stairway of a National Library." The competition is open to all residents of the United States under the age of 25 years. The first and second prize drawings are to become the property of the league. Thomas Hastings, Will H. Low and George L. Heins constitute the committee on competitions.

A Chance For Cameraists.
Prizes are offered by The Revue Suisse des Photographes, Geneva, for the best photograph of a falling drop of water. The drops are to be of distilled water, issuing from a tube, the internal and external diameters of which are measured, with no special conditions as to the size of the picture, but with preference for something near the natural size. Three prizes of medals will be given and three honorable mentions.

A Male Model For Diana.
One of the funniest things that have come to light for a long time is the confession by a male model that he posed for St. Gaudens' statue of Diana now flourishing from the top of the Madison Square Garden. The model is a young Englishman who possesses a remarkably symmetrical form, but among all Olympians it is hard to reconcile a man as representing Diana.—San Francisco Examiner.

Knights of the Maccabees.
The State Commander writes us from Lincoln, Neb., as follows: "After trying other medicines for what seemed to be a very obstinate case in our two children, we tried Dr. King's New Discovery and at the end of two days the cough entirely left them. We will not be without it hereafter as our experience proves that it cures where all other remedies fail."—Signed F. W. Stevens, State Com.—Why not give this great medicine a trial, as it is guaranteed and trial bottles are free at Smoot Drug Co. Regular size 50c. and \$1.00.



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